

CLAIMS

1. A method for measurement of the hepatitis C virus (HCV), characterized by measuring HCV core antigen by its binding with one or more probes in the presence of one or more detergents with one or more alkyl chains of at least 10 carbon atoms and one or more secondary to quaternary amines, or one or more non-ionic surfactants, or both.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said detergent with an alkyl chain and a secondary to quaternary amine is a surfactant with an alkyl group of 12 to 16 carbon atoms and a tertiary or quaternary amine.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said tertiary or quaternary amine detergent is dodecyl-N-sarcosinic acid, a cetyl or dodecyl trimethylammonium salt, 3-(dodecyldimethylammonio)-1-propanesulfonic acid, a dodecylpyrimidium salt or decanoyl-N-methylglucamide (MEGA-10).

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said non-ionic detergent is a surfactant with a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of 12 to 14.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said non-ionic detergent is polyoxyethylene isooctylphenyl ether or polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether.

6. A method for measurement of the hepatitis C virus (HCV), characterized by measuring HCV core antigen by a method according to claim 1 to 5 while also measuring anti-HCV antibodies by its binding with probes.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the probe for said anti-HCV antibody is an HCV-related polypeptide.

00509149 022000

20

25

30